

foreign hostile regimes. We should never allow the military to become entangled in the enforcement of our civil laws.

The Rogers amendment would give the military a permanent position within the Department of Homeland Security to make changes to our government's law enforcement structure. Should the Rogers amendment be included in the final version of the Homeland Security Act, the military would be able to influence civilian use of the Internet, agricultural inspection activities, and customs enforcement, among others. We do not want generals in the Pentagon influencing civilian use of the Internet. We do not want the Pentagon issuing visas and standing on our borders watching who comes and who goes. We do not live in a Communist state and the military should not be enforcing our civil laws.

While Mr. ARMEY will offer an amendment to re-affirm the intent of the Posse Comitatus Act, it will have no legal effect. The Rogers amendment would. Vote no on the Rogers amendment.

CLEANING UP CORPORATE ACCOUNTING PRACTICES

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives yesterday finally passed tough corporate and auditor accountability legislation. After voting unanimously to oppose almost the same bill in April, House Republicans finally joined Democrats in taking the first step to restore investor confidence by cleaning up corporate accounting practices. I want to emphasize that is only a modest first step if we are to restore investor confidence and protect workers and pension holders from corporate greed.

We could have passed strong reforms months ago, but now we are playing catch up. Our work will not be finished until there is pension security, stock options reforms, and government corporate watchdogs who are not tied to Enron and other corporate thieves. I strongly encourage the President to fire Harvey Pitt, to hire regulators who are independent from the industries they regulate, and to aggressively pursue those reforms.

I am pleased that this legislation will stop loans to corporate insiders, extend the statute of limitations for financial fraud from three to five years, force corporate insiders to disclose within two days, and strengthen whistleblower protections for corporate employees.

However, I am disappointed that we have not acted ourselves or directed the Financial Accounting Standards Board to account for stock options as an expense. Stock options packages have been used to deceive investors and workers as to the true financial condition of a corporation. At a recent Berkshire Hathaway annual meeting, Warren Buffet stated, "If options aren't a form of compensation, what are they? If compensation isn't an expense, what is it? And, if expenses shouldn't go into the calculation of earnings, where in the world should they go?" We need to create rules that will restore integrity to our markets.

I am also disappointed that we are not doing more to make sure that workers, pen-

sion holders, and investors are compensated by corporate wrongdoers and their accomplices. They suffered great losses; and through this legislation, they are not totally compensated for those injuries. Accountants, lawyers, and banks that aid and abet corporate fraud are not held liable at all for damages under current law. In order to restore integrity to our financial markets, all parties will need to be held responsible for their actions. Clearly, our work is far from over.

BANKRUPTCY REFORM (H.R. 333)

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Conference Report for the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act.

I can give my colleagues one reason to support this legislation—fairness.

This bill will restore fairness to our nation's bankruptcy laws for those Americans who work hard and pay their bills on time.

A few days ago, representatives from a number of credit unions came to my office, including Rob Nemeroff of the Melrose Credit Union in Woodside, Queens in my Congressional District.

He detailed about how the hard working, middle class people of his credit union—and of my District—continually have to pick up the tab for those who file bankruptcy—whether legitimately, as many do, or irresponsibly, as far too many do.

This bill will provide them some fairness—something that my constituents do not often get from this Congress.

H.R. 333 provides fairness to the victims of criminal corporate executives by mandating that these corporate pirates can no longer shield their multi-million dollar homes from defrauded investors seeking to reclaim some of their lost assets.

It provides fairness for those families who suffered losses in the terror attacks of last year by walling off any of the compensation paid to them through the Victims Compensation Fund or other victims' funds from being considered as income for repayment plans.

And this bill provides fairness for women and children in their ability to collect child support and alimony obligations.

And for those who do file for bankruptcy, this bill includes numerous new protections for them and their families.

This bill permits filers to keep their homes and provide health insurance for themselves and their families before taking their assets into account for repayment plans.

This bill states that low income debtors will be exempt from many of the provisions of this bill if their median family income is below the average for their state.

This legislation represents a fair, common sense approach towards tackling the important yet complicated issues surrounding the issue of bankruptcy in a way that will benefit those working Americans who pay their bills while providing for those who cannot.

Finally, I applaud my colleague from New York, Senator CHARLES SCHUMER for his tireless battle to include tough penalties for the

people who try to discharge debt from clinic protesting.

This was the right thing to do, and I applaud him for including it in this bill.

Overall, this bill is about fairness and I am pleased to support this Conference Report.

H.R. 5005 MANAGER'S AMENDMENT

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Manager's Amendment. I want to thank the Majority Leader and his staff, Margaret Peterlin, Steve Rademaker and Hugh Halpern, for working so cooperatively with us on these items.

The Manager's Amendment includes language making clear the Department's responsibilities to work with states, localities and the private sector to help them improve the security of their computer systems. The Amendment also establishes a volunteer corps of computer experts, who, upon request, could help localities recover from cyber attacks.

The Amendment also includes two important provisions we worked out with the Energy and Commerce and Government Reform Committees, and I want to thank Chairman TAUZIN and Chairman DAVIS and their staffs for their work on these issues.

The first provision, based on Chairman Davis's Federal Information Systems Management Act, will help improve the security of federal computer systems.

The second provision will ensure that the government can take advantage of unsolicited ideas from entrepreneurs and inventors who are working on ways to enhance homeland security. After the anthrax attacks, Americans came forward with an avalanche of ideas to counter bioterrorism, and found that the government had no way to avoid simply being buried by the incoming information. That has to change, and the Department of Homeland Security has to be the instrument to change it.

The Department must have a way to receive unsolicited suggestions, evaluate them, and either move with them, refer them to other appropriate federal agencies, or reject them. The language will require the Department to do just that.

This is such a clear need for the Department to do this—advocated by the National Academy of Science, among others—that the Science Committee, the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Government Reform Committee each reported out a version of language to meet this need.

In our Committee, Congresswoman LYNN RIVERS offered helpful language to expand on the ideas in our base bill, and particularly, to promote coordination with the Technical Support Working Group, an inter-agency group that currently tries to shift through unsolicited ideas.

I'm pleased that our three Committees were able to merge our approaches, and that Chairman ARMEY included that agreement in the Manager's Amendment.

I urge support of this Amendment, which clearly improves the bill.